

Case 133. 37-year-old warehouse worker was killed when he fell from an order picker while retrieving boxes from a 15-foot high rack.

A 37-year-old male warehouse worker was killed when he fell from an order picker while retrieving boxes from a 15- to 20-foot high rack. The decedent was operating a Crown Order Picker SP3000 powered industrial truck. The order picker platform was 48 inches wide and 60 inches long. The platform and operator's station traveled up and down. The operator's controls were located at the end of the platform. There was no standard barrier on the platform. The order picker was equipped with a tether strap connected to the overhead guard. There was no safety belt or harness connected to the tether. The incident area was an aisle between rows of warehouse racks. It appears that the decedent, who was not wearing a safety harness, raised the order picker platform to a height of 14 feet 8 inches above the concrete floor to retrieve boxes. The actual event was unwitnessed. The decedent was found lying below the order picker platform. Several boxes were found on the floor by the decedent. One box was 21.5 inches by 33 inches by 76 inches and one box was 19 inches by 22 inches by 76 inches. A box on the order picker platform measured 20 inches by 32.5 inches by 71.5 inches. All of the boxes weighed approximately 15 pounds. 911 was called and the decedent was transported to a local hospital where he died five days later from the injuries sustained at the time of the incident.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citations:

POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCKS, PART 21, RULE 2166(a).

Provide platform with railing or other restraining device for high lift order picker truck when lifting an employee

POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCKS, PART 21, RULE 2154(1).

Provide valid operator permit for powered industrial truck operators.